

August 28, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,
CC Docket No. 96-45;**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Western Wireless Corp. had an *ex parte* conversation today regarding the proceeding referred to above. Michele Farquhar (Western Wireless' outside counsel), Michael Altschul of the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association (CTIA) and Diane Cornell of CTIA, and myself met with David Furth, Joel Taubenblatt, Jeff Steinberg, Jared Carlson and Wayne Leighton of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The presentation addressed the "equal access" issue that is contained in the attachments, which were distributed during the meeting. Additionally, we discussed operational issues associated with imposing an equal access condition upon Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carriers.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-654-5903.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rubin
Director of Federal Government Affairs